

LITTLE LUMLEY PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Connecting Your Community

1st Edition - Spring / Summer 2026

Dear Residents of Little Lumley Parish,

Welcome to the first edition of our neighbourhood newsletter. It is a pleasure to connect with you and to share some news and information about things taking place within the parish.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all residents, volunteers and local businesses who contribute towards making our parish a welcoming and pleasant place to live.

If you would like to know about how to get involved in volunteering in the community, or if you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor please contact the Parish Clerk by email at clerk@littlelumleyparish.gov.uk

PARISH UPDATES

New Notice Board

Have you spotted our brand new Parish Council notice board on the fence at Robert Foster House? This is where you will find any announcements and information about the Parish Council meetings. The meeting agendas and minutes are also published online on our website: www.littlelumleyparish.gov.uk



Parish Council Meetings

When:	2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30pm (except August and December)*
Where:	Robert Foster House (1st Burnmoor Scout Hall)
Public Attendance:	All residents are welcome.

*(Please check the notice board, our website or Facebook page in case there are any last minute changes to the meeting dates or times).

Bill Forth Park

Exciting News for the Park!

We are delighted to announce that the Parish Council has secured National Lottery funding. This grant will fund a brand-new, innovative play structure. Finalised plans will be shared soon.

Park Maintenance Update

Earlier this year, we arranged the removal of the large boulders that caused overgrown grass and weed issues. Durham County Council has relocated them for good use elsewhere in the County.

Have Your Say

We are always looking for ways to improve the park for everyone. If you have any suggestions, please do get in touch either via our website or by emailing the clerk.



COMMUNITY NEWS

On the Trail for Woodlea's Bunny!

Woodlea Primary School is joining Newcastle's Wild at Art trail from 15th July to 14th September to raise funds for St Oswald's Hospice in Gosforth.

Adele Key, Deputy Headteacher said - "Look out for our school's Peter Rabbit sculpture, 'Arctic Aurora'. Inspired by Yuval Zommer's The Lights that Dance in the Night, which was studied by the whole school, the design was created by our Reception teacher Mrs Churchill and painted by Year 6 pupils, with artist Susan Warlock.

After the summer, Arctic Aurora will join Elmer the Elephant and Shaun the Sheep in our school entrance where it can be enjoyed by everyone."

Happy rabbit hunting!



"The Meeting Place" Coffee Mornings

Looking for the perfect way to start your weekend? Pop along to Robert Foster House every Friday morning from 9am to 12pm for fresh coffee, cake, and great company. Everyone is welcome, including well-behaved dogs. It is a fantastic opportunity to get to know people in the community, join in with some fun activities, or relax in the beautiful gardens. Visitors can also ask about the Scout Hall which is available for private hire.

1st Burnmoor Scouts are always looking for new friendly faces to join the team. No matter how much time you have to give - weekly, occasionally or behind the scenes. You don't need any previous experience, just a desire to help out, have fun and learn new skills. To find out more, please visit their Facebook Page or website <https://www.1stburnmoor.co.uk/en/>



COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

Lumley Castle 50th Anniversary

This year, Lumley Castle celebrates its 50th anniversary as a hotel and a cherished parish landmark. While rich in history, the castle remains a warm community hub where local families can gather, and friendly staff make everyone feel welcome.

As a special thank you to Little Lumley residents, the Castle is offering a 25% discount on food and drinks taken in the Library Bar, as well as Afternoon Teas, and meals in the Knights Restaurant. Quote code **LLL25** when booking or visiting. Additionally, a "kids eat free" offer is available during the summer holidays, though advance booking is advised. **

To appreciate the history, look out for guided tours and family events. Well-behaved dogs are welcome in the Library Bar after you explore the stunning castle grounds and woodlands. Full details, terms, and booking information are available online at <http://www.lumleycastle.com>



As we mark this golden anniversary, we celebrate a piece of our parish's living history that connects us all.

** The commercial discounts and offers featured are provided directly by Lumley Castle Hotel and are included in this newsletter for information purposes only. Little Lumley Parish Council accepts no liability for the fulfillment, or any aspect of the offers, which may be withdrawn by the provider at any time without notice.

AMAZING FACTS ABOUT LITTLE LUMLEY!

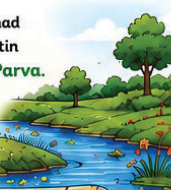
Discover the history of our village!

1 In the year 977, a manor house was built. In 1389, a brave knight named Sir Ralph Lumley transformed that old house into a magnificent stone fortress now known as **Lumley Castle**.



2 Little Lumley had a beautiful Latin name: **Lumley Parva**. It meant a "small town by deep river pools and meadows."

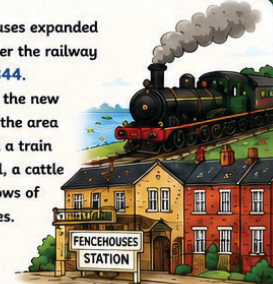
LUMLEY PARVA
"a small town by deep river pools and meadows."



3 In the early 1820s, the Earl and Countess of Scarborough who resided at Lumley Castle gave food to the poor villagers, including a whole ox, sheep, bread, meal, and potatoes.



4 Fencehouses expanded rapidly after the railway arrived in 1844. To support all the new local families, the area quickly gained a train station, a hotel, a cattle market, and rows of terraced houses.



5 By 1923, a rising birth rate meant that the area needed its own district nurse to help keep the community healthy.



6 In 1929, the small village around Lumley Sixth Pit was officially renamed **Woodstone Village** by the Ordnance Survey.

WELCOME TO WOODSTONE VILLAGE



7 In 1935, to celebrate King George V's Silver Jubilee, local children marched to the old Lumley Thicks Cricket Ground where they were given commemorative mugs and tea, followed by fireworks and a bonfire.

SILVER JUBILEE 1935



8 The historic area of Little Lumley retains its original boundaries today. The River Wear, old railway line, and Lumley Park Burn form its outside edge.



QUIZ TIME!
Test your knowledge!

1 In what year was the manor house first built?

A 977
B 1389
C 1844



2 What did "Lumley Parva" mean?

A A big castle
B A small town by deep river pools and meadows
C A town near the sea



3 Who arrived in 1844 to bring rapid change to Fencehouses?

A The coach company
B The railway
C The miners



4 What was Woodstone Village before it was renamed?

A The small village
B Lumley Sixth Pit
C Woodstone Village



5 What did children receive at the 1935 Jubilee celebration?

A Medals
B Commemorative mugs and tea
C Books



WELL DONE!
You're a Little Lumley history expert!



Proud of our past • Caring for our present • Looking forward to our future

(Thank you to local historian and author Robert Bishop, whose book "A County Durham Mining Village: The Lumley Story" gave us the inspiration for these Amazing Facts!)

WHAT'S ON AROUND THE PARISH

Robert Foster House (1st Burnmoor Scout Hall)

Every Friday 9am - 12pm - Coffee mornings at "The Meeting Place"

31st July - Gardening Day.

Weekly timetable - see the Facebook page.

Chester le Street Police Activity Week -

Mon 3rd Aug to Fri 7th Aug

Summer fun & food programme -
Holiday activities with healthy food.

Check the website for activities in the area

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<https://www.durham.gov.uk/funandfood>

Fencehouses Community Centre
check their Facebook page for timetable and events.



DAYS OUT

Spot the Woodlea Bunny at Newcastle Wild at Art Trail
July 15th - Sept 16th <https://talesonthetyne.co.uk>

Throughout school holidays until September - kids go free on most public transport.
<https://www.northeast-ca.gov.uk/kidsgofree>

Durham Explorer bus services
Go car free in Durham and get 25% discount off entry into local attractions.
For more info visit the website:- durham.gov.uk/DurhamExplorer

Swap the stress of driving to scenic spots and use

The **NEW** **Durham Explorer** bus services

Enjoy up to 25% discount off key attractions when you travel by bus!

Bus fares start from just £2.50, and kids go free.

Explore County Durham by bus every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday from 23rd May - 31st Aug 2026.



durham.gov.uk/DurhamExplorer

CAN YOU HELP?

Help Us Keep Our Parish Blooming!

Our volunteer team love planting the floral displays around the parish, but keeping them watered during the summer months is becoming too big a task for our small group. If you live near one of our Council planters and would like to help out, please contact us. Without a helping hand from the community this summer, the Parish Council may sadly be unable to fund or maintain these planters next year. Together, we can keep our parish blooming!



USEFUL CONTACTS

Keep these numbers handy for when you need to report an emergency or just things that need a quick fix.

Emergencies

- Danger to life or a crime in progress) - 999 or 112
- Urgent medical or dental care - 111
- Out of hours pharmacy finder - 111

Police non-emergency

101 (Note Little Lumley Parish falls under **Durham Constabulary**, not Northumbria)

Report non-urgent crime anonymously

Tel 0800 555 111 any time day or night or report online at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org>

Council Welfare Services - First Contact 03000 267979

If you have urgent concerns about the welfare of a child, young person or adult in County Durham please call First Contact. They operate during normal office hours and they also have an out of hours duty officer. Please do not email or text if your call is urgent.

Council Services

Durham County Council staff work Monday to Friday but you can use the online portal 24/7 at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/OnlineServices> to arrange or report:-

Neighbourhood issues:	Faulty street lighting, potholes, missed bins
Environmental issues:	Fly tipping, dead animals, discarded syringes
Bulky waste:	Book and pay for large household item collections.
Registering Life events:	Births, deaths and marriages
Health and support:	Home from hospital care, blue badges, child care funding.

If you need any help please contact one of the Parish Councillors.

Notice to readers and local businesses:- Little Lumley Parish Council does not have a list of preferred companies or services, nor does it make recommendations on behalf of services and goods provided. The Parish Council has no affiliation, financial or otherwise, with any featured entity. Inclusion in this newsletter does not mean the Parish Council either recommends, or endorses, any of the services or information provided by any organisation, individual, or company.

Want to feature? If you would like to make a contribution or feature in our next edition, please contact the Parish Clerk by email at Clerk@Littlelumleyparish.gov.uk for further information on how to do this.